THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 963 Friday, Dec. 31, 1824. Price 1d.

Covent Garden Theatre.

Last night Shakspeare's Comedy of *The Merchant of Venice* was performed here, to a very full house. Mr. J. Russell made his first appearance, after an absence of four years, in the character of *Shylock;* and Mrs. Sloman sustained the part of *Portia*, for the first time at this Theatre. From the clamour which occurred in the galleries during the performance, it is impossible to say more than that the above lady and gentleman received thunders of applause. The Pantomime afford much pleasure.

Drury Lane Theatre.

Another performance of *Der Freischutz*, followed by the new Pantomime, took place last night, and both pieces were received by a numerous audience with much eclat

On Thursday evening Mr. Kean performed at the Glasgow Theatre. The house was exceedingly crowded. During the performance, a band of miscreants who had taken their seats in the upper gallery, compelled several ladies to retire from the front boxes, by continuing to throw peas and small pieces of stone from some kind of machines constructed to give them great force. One lady had her hair comb broken by a piece of stone thrown in this manner.—(*Glasgow Chronicle.*)

Adelphi.—This house continues to attract crowded and respectable audiences. On Monday night the pit was full to standing, long before the curtain rose, and at half-price numbers went away from want of places. Shortly after the performance commenced, most of the box seats were occupied, chiefly by respectable families, accompanied by pretty and neatly dressed children, who, forgetting the terrors of the boarding-school, the grammar, the master, and the rod, gave themselves up to the fascinations of the scene. A slight interruption was given to the progress of the first piece, (a circumstance not unusual in the "*Life of an Actor*") owing to Mr Lee's absence, when the business of the stage required him to be present. However, upon that gentleman coming forward, and stating that a call to his managerial duties was the cause of so rare an occurrence; the liberality of an English audience manifested itself in the cordiality with which his apology was received. The principal performers displayed

their usual abilities. Mr. John Reeve was particularly happy, his mellow humor keeping the audiense in the highest pleasantry : indeed, we know no other performer who produces so pleasing an effect upon the mind by his unaffected drollery. About his acting there is nothing harsh, forced, or unnatural; no straining for effect, no turning of the "human face divine," into nauseous carricature: he seems to be on the most easy terms with the comic muse. The Pantomime went off well, and the audience retired in the highest satisfaction.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer.

Mr. Observer—Being a pretty constant frequenter of Private Theatres, I have the luck to see and hear some rich bits—the outfrowings of strong natural genius,untrammelled by managers or prompters. I send you some specimens of New Readings, which I have no doubt will be adopted in the prompt-books of our Theatres Royal.

In *Rosina,* when *Belville* enters and sees her talking to *Rustic,* he has generally been accustomed to say in a jealous discontented sort of tone—" So close !—I don't half like it." The ineffectiveness of this mode of giving it must be obvious—the meaning of the speech indeed is quite concealed. The other night a gentleman whose *merit* this one thing will prove, came on *wiping his face* with his handkerchief, and exclaimed—puffing and blowing—" *it's so close!*—pooh!—I don't half like it!" It was evident from his look and manner, that he applied the speech to the *weather*, as *of course* was intended by Mrs. Brooke, the authoress. In *Richard the Third,* on another occasion, the young lady who acted *Lady Anne,* thinking the line, " I tell thee murderous homicide"—extremely lame and hobbling, introduced this amendment, " I tell thee murderer—*Oh, my side!*"—(clapping her hand upon her left side.) In the fifth act too, after the tent soliloquy, when *Catesby* enters, Richard exclaims, " Who goes there?"—Catesby usually replies, " 'Tis I my lord—the early village cock!—Hath thrice done salutation to the morn, &c."—but on this occasion the genius of Catesby's representative, identified him with *chanticleer,* and he replied, " 'Tis high, my lord, the *hurly* willage cock!" I forget where it occurred, but I remember one of these *genii* saying, instead of " Lock the door, and put the key in your pocket!"—" Lock the key, and put the door in your pocket."

I am, your's, &c.

Dec. 30, 1824. HOOKEY WALKER.

TO THE PUBLIC.—The very liberal encouragement bestowed on The Theatrical Observer, for upwards of three years, has induced the Proprietors to publish on the 1st of January, 1825, a Weekly Edition, under the Title of THE WEEKLY DRAMATIC REGISTER, which will contain the whole of the *original Matter* that has appeared in the preceding Week's Numbers of The Theatrical Observer. Also, the Announcements of the different Theatres for the ensuing week. It will be ready for delivery every Saturday morning, at this Office, and may be had, by order, of all Booksellers and Newsmen.—*Price Three-Halfpence.*

Printed & Published by E. Thomas, Denmark-court, Exeter-'change, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Opera of

THE CABINET.

Prince Orlando, Mr SAPIO,
Count Curvoso, Mr GATTIE, Lorenzo, Mr HORN,
Marquis de Grand Chateau, Mr BROWNE,
Peter, Mr DOWNE, Whimsiculo, Mr HARLEY,
Manikin, Mr HUGHES, Baptista, Mr POVEY,
Floretta, Miss STEPHENS,
Constantia, Mrs BEDFORD, Curioso, Miss NICOL,
Bianca, Mrs HARLOWE.

After which, (5th time) a Grand Comic Pantomime, called

Harlequin AND THE *Talking Bird*,

Or, the Singing Trees and Golden Waters.

Zalec, Mr MERCER, Coralla, Miss WILLMOTT,
Alidor, Prince of Persia, afterwards Harlequin, Mr HOWELL,
Shumlum-Humdrum-Hookum, (Pantaloon) Mr T. BLANCHARD,
Hichi-Itchi-Volti-Funni, afterwards Clown, Mr KIRBY.
Parizade, Princess of Persia, afterwards Columbine, Miss BARNETT,
The Enchanter, Mr COMER, Chin-tie, Master WIELAND,
Genius of the Golden Waters, Miss CARR, Donald, Master Edmonds.

SCENERY.

1. Zalec's Abode and Colossal Guide-Light.—2. Grove of Singing Trees.—3. Enchanted Aviary.—4. The Crystal Grotto and Golden Waters.—5. Italian Sea Port.—6. Court Yard of an Inn.—7. The Second Arch of Westminster Bridge.—8. A Peep at Treadneedle Street.—9. A Short Walk to the West End.—10. The Washing Company—11. Tobacconist's Shop in the Vicinity of London.—12. The Firmament.—13. Auld Reekie.—14. Exterior of Haunted House.—15. Haunted Kitchen.—16. Gipsey Haunt in Ruins of an Abbey, by Moonlight—17. Terrestrial Temple of the Peries.

To-morrow, The Siege of Belgrade, with the Pantomime

EXHIBITIONS.

DIORAMA, Regent's Park, Two New Views—Chartres Cathedral, and Brest Harbour—Open Daily from Ten till Four o'Clock.

MARSHALL'S ORIGINAL NEW PERISTREPHIC PANORAMA, representing all the interesting events which happened to Bonaparte, from his defeat at Waterloo till his death; displaying Twelve Views of St. Helena, Battles of Genappe, Trafalgar, &c.—Great Room, Spring Gardens.

Mr. CROSS's Grand Collection of Wild Beasts—Exeter-'Change, Strand.

COSMORAMA, 209, Regent Street, Oxford Street—The present Selection of Views Possesses very great Classical Interest—Admission from 10 till 4.

Mr. FINN'S FANCY GLASS-WORKING EXHIBITION, in Minjature. Displaying the whole Art of Modelling, Blowing, and Working---161, Strand.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening ROWLEY's Comedy of

A Woman never Vext;

Foster. Mr BENNET, Stephen Foster, Mr C. KEMBLE,
Foster, Jun Mr COOPER. Henry the Sixth, Mr BAKER,
Walter Brown, Mr EGERTON, George, Mr HENRY,
Sir Godfrey Speedwell, Mr BARTLEY, Clown, Mr BLANCHARD,
Richard, Mr HORREBOW, Host, Mr BARNES,
Churchman Mr EVANS, Master Innocent Lambskin, Mr MEADOWS,
Mrs Foster, Miss LACY, Jane, Miss JONES,
Agnes Welsted, Miss CHESTER.

After which, (5th time) a grand Comic Pantomime, called

HARLEQUIN AND

The Dragon of Wantly;

Or, MORE, OF MORE HALL.

More, of More Hall, a valiant Knight, Mr J. ISAACS,
Moore, (afterwards Harlequin,) Mr ELLAR,
Peter Gripe, (afterwards Pantaloon) Mr BARNES,
The Dragon of Wantly, (afterwards Clown) Mr J. S. GRIMALDI,
Sulpherball, the King of Fire, Mr EVANS,
Crystillio, Fairy of the Fountains, Master LONGHURST,
Nurseryman, Mr COLLETT, Mrs Pumpkin, Mrs HEATH,
Peachblosom, Miss BARNETT, Mr Deputy Doublebody, Mr Ryals
Coachman and Guard of the Mail, Messrs Griffiths, & Chaplin,
Dandy Pieman, Mr O'Brian, Dutch Broomwoman, Mrs Van-Birch-Got
Mayflower, (afterwards Columbine) Miss ROMER.

SCENERY.

Scene 1.—Interior of a Copper Mine, the Palace of Sulphurball.—2. Rotherham Green, at Wantly in Yorkshire.—3. More Hall and Park.—4. The Dragon's Well and Fairy Temple.—5. General View of York.—6. Nurseryman's House and Grounds.—7. The New Inn & White Horse, Fetter Lane.—8. Inside of Watch-House.—9. Rotherhithe, and the Projected Tunnel under the Thames.—10 Blackfriar's Bridge Macadamizing.—The GRAND SAILING MATCH for the Cumberland Cup, represented in a MOVING PANORAMA, commencing at Blackfriar's Bridge, passing through the other Bridges, and shewing the intended Alterations in the Grand Promenade on the Banks of the Thames, and ending with the Arrival of the different Sailing Boats at 12. Cumberland Gardens.—13. Cheap Wine Company, Patent Medicine Shop, The Three Jolly Brewers.—14. The Horns at Kennington—15. The Town of Epsom.—16. Epsom Race Course.—17. The Grand Stand on the Downs.—18. The Waggon in Danger, and Vessel in Safety.—19. Exterior of a Cavern.—20. Chrystillo's Palace and Fairy Fountains.

To-morrow, Der Freischutz.

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